**Weakening focus of MPEDA on export of marine products**

1636. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is weakening its focus on marine products exports;

(b) whether it is a fact that MPEDA wants to branch out and expand and create a huge organization;

(c) if so, whether MPEDA will be bi-furcated; and

(d) the steps proposed to carefully monitor MPEDAs new policy suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No. Sir. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has been set up under the provisions of the MPEDA Act, 1972 to take measures for development of the marine products industry with special reference to exports. MPEDA functions within the mandate provided under the Act.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

(d) The Government of India periodically monitors all schemes being implemented by MPEDA.

**Lifting ban on future trading of farm products**

1637. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any recommendations from Forward Markets Commission (FMC) to lift the ban on future trading of farm products;

(b) if so, Government's response on this recommendations from FMC;

(c) whether Government has also constituted any committee to study the impact in the price of such commodities in domestic market, if the Government lifts the ban on future trading; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes. The Government has set up an Expert Committee on 2/3/2007 under the Chairmanship of Professor Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to study, *inter alia,* the extent of impact, if any, of futures trading on wholesale and retail prices of agricultural commodities.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.